Challenges and Opportunities for Japanese Researchers

Springer Nature has published the results of a survey of >1000 Japanese researchers, looking at the challenges and opportunities in data sharing in Japan.

95% of Japanese researchers have shared their data (n=975)

Sharing data is important to the majority of Japanese researchers:

75% of respondents rated the discoverability of their data as being somewhat important (score of 6 or above out of 10) (n=1062)

The top two reasons why researchers would be motivated to share data are:

50% ‘To progress research’ in their field
42% For the transparency and re-use of data (n=994)

Private sharing of data is a lot more common than public sharing of data

Private sharing of data is mainly amongst known peers (66%) and colleagues from their own institution (41%) (n=905)

62% have shared data both privately and publicly
36% have only shared data privately
2% of respondents have only shared their data publicly

The three most common methods of private sharing were:

- email (65%)
- USB or flash drives (41%)
- file sharing services (39%)

The three most common ways of public sharing were:

- supplementary information to journal articles (51%)
- lab or personal website (27%)
- subject specific repository or data archive (25%)

There are still concerns over sharing datasets:

- misuse of data 49%
- copyright and licensing 42%
- sensitive information 35%

(n=990)

1Underlying survey data have been made openly available in the figshare repository: DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.6328952
Most researchers (46%) share their data ‘when still carrying out research’

At what point do you usually share your research data?

- **46%** when still carrying out my research
- **29%** when writing my manuscript
- **27%** at the point of submitting my manuscript
- **19%** at the point of my manuscript being published
- **38%** sometime after my manuscript has been published
- **1%** other
- **5%** I don’t know

Of those who share data when still carrying out research (exclusively):
- **46%** have done so only privately
- **53%** both privately/publicly and only
- **1%** only publicly

56% of researchers have created a Data Management Plan (DMP) (n=1170) before. Of these:
- **45%** of researchers ‘always’ or ‘the majority of the time’ create DMPs
- **59%** have implemented the DMPs they created ‘always’ or ‘the majority of the time’

Of those who haven’t created a DMP before:
- **46%** had not heard of a DMP before
- **45%** were not required to make a DMP by either their funder or institution

36% said time is the biggest challenge when it comes to implementing a DMP (n=601)

Only 13% agree they have enough information to create a DMP
58% are likely to create a DMP in future (n=1068)

The current state of awareness of funder requirements

- **34%** of respondents do not know what their main funders’ requirements are in relation to DMPs (n=763)
- **23%** of respondents do not know what their main funders’ requirements are in relation to data sharing (n=723)

To help increase awareness of funder requirements, Springer Nature has introduced a research data helpdesk for authors and editors that provides FREE advice on research data policies of funders, institutions and journals.

Email: researchdata@springernature.com